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THE CATTLE TICK.

Several Reliable Methods For Getting Rid of the Nuisance.

The following brief directions for ridding cattle and premises of the Texas fever ticks, prepared by Dr. R. P. Steddom, chief of the Inspection Division of this Bureau, are issued as an aid to the work of tick eradication which has been undertaken by the Bureau in co-operation with State authorities. This circular is especially applicable from midsummer until the following April to localities where but few cattle are kept.

If the Southern farmers will but make a united effort along the lines indicated and thus co-operate with the local officials and this Bureau in attacking the tick problem, much headway will be made, and our ultimate aim—the entire eradication of the tick and its direful consequences to southern agriculture—will be within measurable distance of accomplishment. A. D. MELVIN, Chief of Bureau.

HOW TO GET RID OF CATTLE TICKS.

The destruction of ticks which are on cattle and premises is the first step in procuring a free cattle traffic. The following suggestions are therefore made for the purpose of assisting owners of small numbers of ticky cattle to get rid of the fever ticks.

The term "ticks" as here used is especially applied to the fever tick (*Margaropus annulatus*). These ticks are the more abundant in the latter part of summer and fall, the other kinds being rarely present after the month of July. All ticks are harmful, however, and should be destroyed.

The term "cattle" should be understood to include all cows, steers, bulls, heifers, yearlings, calves and oxen.

Tick-free premises are those in which there have been no ticky animals for nine months previously.

A GOOD METHOD.

Cattle and premises may be freed by hand picking the cattle even though they are allowed to run on ticky premises, provided they are controlled and no other animals are permitted on the premises. The method of hand picking and greasing is most suitable in cases where there are but few animals or for small herds where the conditions for grazing can not be changed. The method consists in carefully examining all the cattle daily and picking or scraping off the ticks. In this connection it must be remembered that horses and mules sometimes carry ticks, and therefore these animals must also be thoroughly and frequently examined and the ticks removed. It is true that while this process is going on the animals will get more ticks on them if the premises are ticky, but by diligently destroying all the larger ticks the supply finally gives out on account of the seed ticks having perished.

Arrange to examine all the cattle and pick the ticks at least every other day. All parts of the animals, especially the insides and back parts of thighs, should be examined for ticks. If any of the cattle are difficult to handle, they

should be driven into a chute or narrow pen made for the purpose and where good light is afforded. Ticks can be seen best in sunlight. Ticks must not be thrown on the ground, but should be placed in tin cans or other convenient vessels and carried to a suitable place and burned or otherwise totally destroyed or they will lay eggs, and seed ticks will hatch in countless numbers. Begin now to pick ticks and be sure that not a single tick matures on your cattle after September 1. As a result of your trouble in observing the precautions herein indicated during the summer and fall, the cattle and premises should be free from ticks by April 1.

To assist in preventing ticks from getting on cattle the cattle may be greased at the time of picking or as often as may seem to be necessary. The greasy solution is obnoxious to the ticks, and if the legs and sides of the animals are treated in this manner, the ticks will be less apt to crawl on them.

In greasing cattle, use Beaumont crude petroleum or any crude oil, cotton-seed oil, fish oil or lard. The following mixture will be found useful for this purpose: One gallon of kerosene, one gallon of cottonseed oil, and one pound of flowers of sulphur. Any of the above may be applied with a sponge, swab, or brush, and should be thoroughly rubbed on all the lower parts of the cattle (Continued on page 7.)

The Wealthiest Men.

Who is the wealthiest man in the world? This is a question which has agitated from time to time the people both of England and this country. Not long since James Burnley, the English author, compiled the following list:

Alfred Beit, diamonds, London, \$500,000,000; J. B. Robinson, gold and diamonds, London, \$400,000,000; John D. Rockefeller, oil, New York, \$250,000,000; W. W. Astor, land, London, \$250,000,000; Prince Demidoff, land, St. Petersburg, \$200,000,000; Andrew Carnegie, steel, New York, \$125,000,000; W. K. Vanderbilt, railroads, New York, \$100,000,000; William Rockefeller, oil, New York, 100,000,000.

J. J. Astor, land, New York; Lord Rothschild, money lending, London; Duke of Westminster, land, London; and J. Pierpont Morgan, banking, New York, each \$75,000,000.

Lord Iveagh, beer, Dublin; Senora Isadora Cousino, mines and railroads, Chile; M. Heine, silk, Paris; Baron Alphonso Rothschild, money lending, Paris; Baron Nathaniel Rothschild, money lending, Vienna; Archduke Frederick of Austria, land, Vienna; and George J. Gould, railroads, New York, each \$70,000,000.

Mrs. Hetty Green, banking, New York, \$55,000,000; James H. Smith, banking, New York; Duke of Devonshire, land, London; Duke of Bedford, land, London; and Henry O. Hayemeyer, sugar, New York, each \$50,000,000.

John Smith mines, Mexico; Claus Spreckles, sugar, San Francisco; and Archbishop Conn, land, Vienna, each \$40,000,000.

Russell sage, money lending, New York; and Sir Thomas Lipton, groceries, London, \$25,000,000.

THE BLUSHING TREE.

A Sensitive-Plant Freak Unknown to the World at Large.

That certain of our Florida shrubs are so sensitive to the approach of man that their leaves actually recoil from his touch is a fact so well known that the wonder of it has ceased to awaken surprise or comment; but the discovery of a still more astounding characteristic of Florida tree-life is still so recent that it is almost totally unknown to the world at large, and partakes so much of the incredible, that human reason can scarcely entertain or grasp its truth.

It is significant, too, that you will search in vain through the standard works of the world's great naturalists for any reference to the habit of the *Acalapha Blusharina*, or the blushing tree as it is familiarly known to the residents of Punta Gorda.

The leaf of this tree or shrub is large, heart-shaped, and of a vivid green.

By the merest chance it was discovered that the coloring matter of the leaves of this shrub is sensitive not only to human touch but to human thought.

A little reflection will show the tremendous importance of this discovery which is nothing more or less than the bridging of the chasm between plant-life and animal-life.

It may be said that to Punta Gorda has fallen the honor of discovering this missing link.

Some years ago a party of hunters, among whom were Capt. F. M. Cooper and Clayton Porter, were camping at sundown beside a cypress swamp. Small game had been plentiful and it had been a good day, judging by the full game bags.

After an appetizing camp-supper, pipes were lighted and stories as a natural sequence, were in order, and on this particular occasion Capt. Cooper especially distinguished himself as a raconteur. Hunters' stories seldom partake of a grave or historical character, but the Capt. stoutly denies that the discovery of the Blushing tree was co-incidental with the moment when he was handing out a hot one.

However, the fact remains that he stopped short, pulled up suddenly in the middle of his story and swept a scrutinizing glance around on the faces of his companions, exclaiming, "By Jove, what's the matter with you fellows? I wouldn't expect a mild little yarn like that to draw the blood to your faces." One of the party retorted "what's the matter with you? When a man has to blush at one of his own stories, it's about time to hand him the halo."

Just then another member of the party drew attention to the tree under which they reclined. It, too, was stained a rich, red color in sharp contrast to the deep green of its normal appearance and the radiation of its rosy tint was reflected on the faces of the men reclining beneath it.

"Well, by thunder!" roared the Captain, "watch her changing color, will you? She's pale-pink,

now yellow, and now green again. Talk about your chameleons, she makes the choicest of them look faded," rounding off these comments with a series of assorted and crackling profanities. The tree, shocked no doubt at the language, shivered a little and then gradually became transformed into a tender red thing, the very personification of modesty.

"Boys," said Capt. Cooper, "we've got to settle this thing to our satisfaction. If it's really a blushing tree, every man of you needs one or more in his front yard. Clayt, suppose you try one of your peachiest yarns on the tree till we find out if she's sensitive to other than my brand."

Thereupon the tree was subjected to a most trying and convincing test by each member of the party, lasting for over two hours, during which time it is said, the sensitive plant-freak never lost its deep carmine tint. Of course these noble hunters asserted that they quite outshone themselves on that memorable occasion, but it was all in the interest of science, but be that as it may, the discovery of this rare and remarkable tree has added another to the already great number of wonders that have brought fame to Punta Gorda.

The Blushing Tree's charming foliage adds much to the beauty of our public promenades, but it has been observed that young lovers do not linger long under its enticing shade.

Got What He Deserved.

Hip, hip, hoorah! Poetic justice has at last overtaken the fool who rocks the boat. He was struck on the grinning mouth with an oar, wielded by a athletic Philadelphia girl, and knocked into the Skuytkill river. He swam ashore, almost exhausted, and was dragged out of the water to repent at leisure.

According to the Philadelphia Public Ledger, a young man took two girls out for a row upon the river. As they neared the city returning he became humorous and attempted to frighten the girls by rocking the boat. One of them, Miss Mary Garston, requested him to desist, and told him that her father always said that a man who was fool enough to rock a boat with women in it was fool enough to be knocked into the river. As the hint was not taken, the girl picked up an oar and smashed the man over the head. He fell overboard, and the two girls continued on their way, cheered by persons in boats and on the banks of the stream.

Like the fool who doesn't know it is loaded, the fool who rocks the boat usually escapes his deserved fate in this world. It is a genuine pleasure to see one of the type properly punished. — Courier-Journal.

Fourteen of the leading agricultural staples of the country are in better condition than at this date last year by per centages ranging from four to eighteen, while only three are in the same or a fraction of one per cent less favorably conditioned. This seems to guarantee a prosperous condition with our friends, the farmers, upon whom we all depend. — Tampa Times.

THE TOMATO.

History of one of the Chief Vegetable Products of South Florida.

The large, smooth, solid fleshed tomato of today is a striking example of what can be accomplished by patient plant breeding. Not much more than a generation ago, and well within the memory of most people with gray hair, the tomato was a practically useless fruit, and by the old people of that day was considered poisonous. "It's flying in the face of providence," as many of them would say, "to try and circumvent nature and grow those things for eating. Some day the whole race of people will be poisoned, and it will serve them right."

Nevertheless there were some who saw, or thought they saw, the possibilities of the tomato, and the Trophy tomato, introduced by the late Col. Waring, who laid down his life in giving Cuba sanitation, was the first of the modern smooth, round, in fact, edible tomato. "The Trophy tomato," as stated by Col. Waring, "is a product of crossing and careful cultivation by Dr. Hand of Baltimore county, Maryland. He began his work in connection with it in about 1850. He crossed the small, smooth Love apple which was filled with juice and seeds, with the compound, convoluted tomato of that period. This latter was practically four or five separate fruits packed into one, with the skin running far into the convolutions. He succeeded in putting the solid mass of this compound growth into the smooth skin of the Love apple, and then by careful selection year after year, increased its size and the solidity of its contents until it became a mass of flesh interspersed with seed cells."

In more recent years, the effect of selection is shown in the production of the Paragon tomato by A. W. Livingston. In searching his tomato fields of Trophies, he selected one plant because of the uniformly smooth fruits and its heavy bearing. The following year he sowed the seeds and from this crop selected the earliest and best specimens. By continuing this process for five years the Paragon was produced. — Bartow Courier Informant.

This year's crop will be worth \$8,000,000, in the opinion of the Department of Agriculture. The chief statistician says: "Indications are for great crops. For eight years the American farmer has enjoyed unprecedented prosperity and now the ninth promising harvest is practically assured. Never have there been nine such years of big yield and high prices."

And now look for a change in the weather, with the resumption of the sparkling summer showers which make the summer of Florida a constant delight and at the same time rejoice the hearts of the agriculturist and fruit grower. — Tampa Times.

The State Democratic executive committee will meet in Jacksonville tomorrow to canvass the returns of the second primary.